

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 938

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Emmylou Harris upon her thirtieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those gifted artists who have experienced great success in the world of country music; and

WHEREAS, Emmylou Harris, one of the most beloved, iconic voices in country music history, celebrated her thirtieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry on January 25, 2022; and

WHEREAS, hailing from Birmingham, Alabama, Ms. Harris fell in love with folk music in the 1960s and began performing while studying drama at the University of North Carolina; she moved to Greenwich Village in 1967 to join the burgeoning folk revival and released her first record in 1969; and

WHEREAS, on the East Coast club circuit, she met Gram Parsons, and both her career and life were forever changed; he became her mentor and singing partner, drawing her into the 1970s country rock movement and strengthening her ties to traditional country music; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, she recorded her first major album, *Pieces of the Sky*, introducing her Hot Band, which, over the years, included such world-class players as James Burton, Albert Lee, Rodney Crowell, and Ricky Skaggs; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Ms. Harris released the ambitious *Wrecking Ball*, collaborating with celebrated rock producer Daniel Lanois, and garnered a Grammy for Best Contemporary Folk Recording; and

WHEREAS, over the course of her career, Emmylou Harris has earned seven No. 1 hits and twenty-seven Top 10 songs, including "If I Could Only Win Your Love," "Together Again," "Sweet Dreams," "Making Believe," "To Daddy," and "Heartbreak Hill"; and

WHEREAS, she was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2008 and boasts ten gold albums and twelve Grammy Awards, including one for her 1987 *Trio* album with Linda Ronstadt and Dolly Parton; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, *Billboard* magazine recognized her distinguished career achievements with its highest accolade, the Century Award; and

WHEREAS, with her crystal-clear soprano, lissome beauty, impeccable instincts, and uncompromising integrity, Emmylou Harris redefined the image and role of women in country music; few, if any, artists have so successfully erased boundaries between country, folk, and rock and roll; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Harris was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry on January 25, 1992, a most befitting honor for this country music legend, whose contributions and influence have only grown since that time; and

WHEREAS, it is the dream of every country music artist to be a member of the Grand Ole Opry and perform on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry House, and it is most fitting that Emmylou Harris be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Emmylou Harris upon her thirtieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry, commend her illustrious career in country music, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.